

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 SSM-05 ACDA-10 MCT-01 /097 W
-----141609Z 024412 /45

R 141433Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5255
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1828

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IS, PLO, XF
SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS REACTION TO PNC

1. RABIN'S TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO
DOMINATE THE ISRAELI PRESS, OVERSHADOWING INTEREST IN
THE ACTIVITIES AT THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL IN
CAIRO. MOST NEWSPAPERS REPORT ONLY BRIEFLY ON THE COUNCIL'S
ACTIVITIES; FOR EXAMPLE, HAARETZ MARCH 14 REPORTS THAT
THE PNC WILL NOT CHANGE ITS STAND CALLING FOR ISRAEL'S
ANNIHILATION AND THAT THIS POSITION REFLECTS THE ATTITUDE
OF ALL THE COUNCIL'S 293 DELEGATES. THE PNC SPOKESMAN
IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT BEFORE A DECISION ON PARTICIPATION
AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE CAN BE TAKEN, THE PLO MUST FIRST
BE INVITED. HAARETZ BORROWS FROM THE JERUSALEM ARABIC
DAILY AL FAJR IN REPORTING THAT SEVEN PALESTINIAN
DELEGATES FROM THE UNITED STATES ARE ATTENDING THE
COUNCIL SESSIONS. AL FAJR PUBLISHER PAUL AJLOUNI
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(AN AMERICAN CITIZEN) REPORTEDLY IS ATTENDING THE
SESSIONS AS AN OBSERVER.

2. JERUSALEM POST ARAB AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT
(SAFADI) WRITES OF THE "STUNNING POWER" OF REJECTIONIST
ELEMENTS IN THE PLO, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE SURPRISING
SUPPORT (69 VOTES) FOR REJECTIONIST ABU GHARBIYA IN

HIS UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO UNSEAT PNC CHAIRMAN KHALED FAHOUM (172 VOTES). FAHOUM REPORTEDLY WON A REQUIRED 2/3 MAJORITY ONLY BECAUSE OF SUPPORT FROM 100 NEW PNC DELEGATES "APPOINTED BY SYRIA, EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN" AND WITHOUT WHOM THE REFUSAL FRONT WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE AS MUCH STRENGTH IN THE PLO AS ARAFAT'S FATAH BLOC. SAFADI QUOTES MIDDLE EAST OBSERVERS AS SAYING THAT WITH SUCH A LARGE BLOC OF HARD-LINE VOTES, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT DRASTIC POLICY CHANGES WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE PNC.

3. SIMILAR IDEAS APPEAR IN DAVAR'S EDITORIAL MARCH 14 WHICH SPEAKS OF THE "UNEXPECTED POWER OF THE REFUSAL FRONT EXTREMISTS." SADAT MADE USE OF HIS OPENING SPEECH TO CLEANSE HIMSELF OF THE "PEACE OFFENSIVE" STIGMA AND EXPLAINED TO HIS PALESTINIAN AUDIENCE THAT HE TOO WAS

MERELY RESORTING TO TACTICS TO ACHIEVE A COMMON GOAL. THE EFFECTS OF HUSSEIN'S MEETING WITH ARAFAT AND ASSAD'S UP-COMING VISIT TO MOSCOW ALSO SERVED TO PROMOTE RADICALISM AT THE PNC, DAVAR SAYS. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS UNLIKELY THAT PALESTINIANS WILL MAKE ANY SHIFT TOWARD RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL OR A CESSATION OF TERRORISM.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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